

CLAIMS

1. A free-flowing particulate detergent composition or component therefor which comprises a bi- or tri- valent metal ion carboxylic acid salt which, without the salt being present, has a hygroscopicity value of greater than 25%.
2. A composition or component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal ion is magnesium, calcium, zinc, aluminium, lead, iron or mixtures thereof.
3. A composition or component as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the carboxylic acid salt has from 10 to 22 carbon atoms.
4. A composition or component as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the carboxylic acid salt is magnesium stearate.
5. A composition or component as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein, without the carboxylic acid salt being present, has a hygroscopicity value of greater than 5%, preferably greater than 10%, more preferably greater than 20%, or even greater than 30%, or even greater than 40% or even greater than 50%.
6. A composition or component as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the carboxylic acid salt is particulate.

- 17 -

7. A composition or component as claimed in claim 6, wherein the carboxylic acid salt has a number average particle size of from 0.1 to 500 micrometres, preferably from 1 to 200 micrometres, more preferably from 2 to 100 micrometres, most preferably from 3 to 50 micrometres, or even from 3 to 20 micrometres.
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8. A composition or component as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the carboxylic acid salt is present at a level of from 0.1 to 10 wt%, preferably from 1 to 8 wt%, more preferably from 2 to 6 wt%.
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9. A composition or component as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein carboxylic acid salt is present at the surface of the particles at a higher concentration than the average concentration in the composition or component.
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10. A composition or component as claimed in claim 9, wherein substantially all of the carboxylic acid salt is present at the surface of the particles.
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11. A process comprising the step of adding a bi- or tri-valent metal ion carboxylic acid salt to a previously manufactured particulate detergent composition or component.
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12. A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the carboxylic acid salt is particulate and is layered onto the surface of the detergent composition or component.
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